

Message Text

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TO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA IN IISS MILITARY BALANCE REPORT

USDEL MBFR PASS TO ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BEHR FROM IKLE

IN COURSE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH IISS STAFF PLEASE PROBE DISCREETLY FOR REASONING BEHIND DATA PUBLISHED IN THEIR MOST RECENT MILITARY BALANCE SHOWING DECLINE IN PACT GROUND MANPOWER IN NGA AREA TO 899,000 AT THE VERY TIME WHEN OUR OWN ESTIMATES SHOW RISE FROM PREVIOUS FIGURE OF 925,000. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH PACT GROUND/AIR TOTAL REMAINED THE SAME AS IN LAST YEAR'S IISS MILITARY BALANCE REPORT, NEW MILITARY BALANCE REPORT SHOWS SHIFT OF MANPOWER FROM GROUND TO AIR CATEGORIES. DOES THIS REPRESENT CHANGE IN DEFINITIONS, OR CHANGE IN SUBSTANTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THESE FORCES? IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CLEARER HAD IISS STATED EXPLICITLY IN THE REPORT REASON FOR THEIR CHANGE. MOREOVER, WHY ARE IISS TOTALS FOR PACT AIR/GROUND FORCES LOWER THAN OURS? WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO BLOW OUT OF PROPORTION OUR ISSUE WITH THIS IISS DATA, AND ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT REVEAL OUR CLASSIFIED DATA WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THEIRS, I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY HOW

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THE IISS ARRIVED AT ITS CURIOUS DATA POSITION. KISSINGER

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